

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1262
By Hawk

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Gregg K. Jones upon being elected as Chairman of the Newspaper Association of America.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as exemplary journalists and consummate professionals of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Gregg K. Jones, who was recently named Chairman of the Newspaper Association of America (NAA); and

WHEREAS, currently serving as Co-Publisher of *The Greeneville Sun* and as President of Jones Media, Incorporated, Mr. Jones hails from a lineage of newspaper professionals; and

WHEREAS, in 1916, Mr. Jones' grandmother, Edith O'Keefe, began a legacy of providing Greeneville and the surrounding areas with quality journalism, as she took over as Publisher of what was then *The Greeneville Democrat*; in 1920 she and her family bought *The Greeneville Sun* and *The Searchlight* and consolidated the three weekly papers into one daily newspaper, *The Greeneville Democrat-Sun*, with her father acting as Business Manager and her mother acting as Editor and a Columnist; and

WHEREAS, serving alongside his father, John M. Jones, Sr., who is Publisher of *The Greeneville Sun*, Mr. Gregg K. Jones is associated with the smallest newspaper since the mid-1940s to be linked with the top leadership of NAA and its predecessor, the American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA); he is also the first person from Tennessee to chair the NAA or the ANPA since before World War II; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, Mr. Jones furthered his education at Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, Virginia where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History; and

WHEREAS, upon completing his studies at Hampden-Sydney, doing some international traveling, and flirting with the idea of a career as a jazz musician, Mr. Jones returned to his roots in the newspaper industry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones became a fourth generation newspaper professional in 1972 when he began his illustrious tenure with *The Greeneville Sun*, and he has since worked in every department at the paper; and

WHEREAS, named Co-Publisher of *The Sun* in 1985, Mr. Jones has served on the NAA Board of Directors since 1995, most recently as Vice-Chairman, and has chaired the Postal, Industry Development, and NAA/Audit Bureau of Circulations Liaison Committees; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his involvement with NAA, Mr. Jones has held membership in several other laudable professional organizations, including the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association (SNPA), which he has served as President, Director, and Committee Chairman, in addition to his current service as a Trustee of the SNPA Foundation; the American Press Institute serving as a member of the Regional Advisory Board; the Board of the Associated Press; and as President of the Tennessee Press Association, following in the footsteps of his father, and leading the way for his brother, John M. Jones, Jr. both of whom have also served as President of the Tennessee Press Association; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Jones still finds time to lend his remarkable talents and leadership abilities to such civic organizations as the East Tennessee Foundation, having previously served as President; the Greene County Partnership as Director, and the Open Spaces Conservancy as Director; and he is a member of the Executive Board of the Sequoyah Council, Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to preserving Greeneville's National Register Historic District, Mr. Jones has served as President of Morgan Square, Incorporated, a nonprofit public benefit corporation that is overseeing the development of the Morgan Square downtown revitalization project; and

WHEREAS, having served as President of the Greeneville Exchange Club, Main Street: Greeneville, Incorporated, and the United Way of Greene County, Mr. Jones has been diligent and successful in garnering recognition and respect for the City of Greeneville, as he played an

integral role in the successful effort to name a Los Angeles-class U.S. Navy nuclear submarine after the city; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Jones is a member of St. James Episcopal Church, where he has served as Senior Warden of the Vestry; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments aside, Mr. Jones is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, the former Katharine Rasin Meek; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Gregg K. Jones for his dedication to upholding the proud tradition of quality journalism in the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Gregg K. Jones for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee as Co-Publisher of The Greenville Sun, congratulate him upon being elected Chairman of the Newspaper Association of America, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.